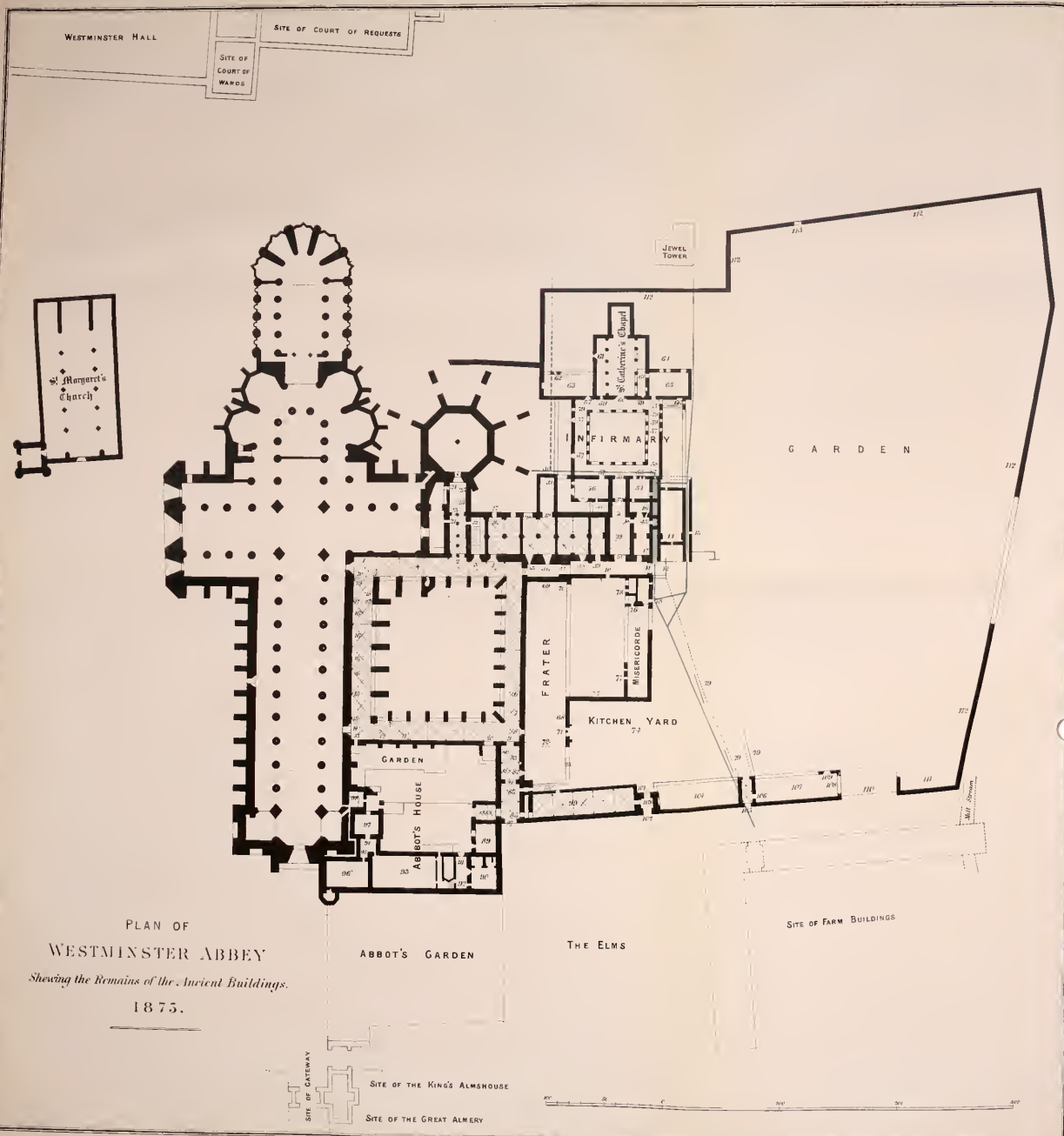


PLAN OF

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Shewing the Remains of the Ancient Buildings.

1873.

NOTES ON THE ABBEY BUILDINGS OF WESTMINSTER.

By J. T. MICKLETHWAITE, F.S.A.

The following memoir may be said to owe its origin to the Ripon Congress in 1874, at which the Cistercian plan was made a special point of interest by Mr. Sharpe. A few weeks later the Rev. J. T. Fowler being in town, he and I spent several mornings together amongst the Abbey Buildings at Westminster, and found so much remaining that I continued the search, and made out the accompanying plan.[1] In doing this I have received much assistance from Mr. Wright, the Clerk of Works to the Dean and Chapter, who has most obligingly directed my attention to many old scraps inside the houses and in other places where, without his assistance, I should have been very unlikely to find them, and has, in every way, done what he could to facilitate my work.

I believe that as much or more of the Abbey Buildings remains at Westminster as at Fountains, although here they are buried in recent work and covered up by modern wall papers and fixtures, instead of being dissected and laid open to easy inspection, as in the famous Cistercian example. When the Abbey was secularized, only a few of the larger apartments, such as the Frater and the Infirmary chapel, which were no longer used, were dismantled. The remaining buildings were portioned out amongst the members and officers of the new foundation, who altered them, more or less, to suit their requirements, as their successors have continued to do to the present time, but there has been very little actual demolition. The result is, that although most of the buildings appear recent outside, there is much old work embedded in them, and this is often brought to light when repairs or alterations are going on. The quantity is continually being reduced, and my purpose now is to record

[1] I ought to say that the plan has not been made from a special survey, and makes no pretension to minute accuracy.

all that I can at present discover. My business is with the fabric, and for documentary illustration I have made use only of printed and easily accessible matter. I am aware that in Abbot Ware's *Custumal*, and in the early Chapter books there is great store of information about the uses of the various buildings, but I have not had leisure to search these sources, and if I had waited until I could do so, the memoir might have never been written at all. I therefore offer it as it is, another sheaf of *Gleanings*, to use Sir Gilbert Scott's expression, and knowing that it does but little to reduce the quantity which remains to reward future workers.

Failing the Westminster *Custumal*, our chief guide to the buildings is the book known as the "Rites of Durham," in using which, however, we must bear in mind that Durham, like Worcester, differed from most monastic houses in being approached from the east instead of the west, and that, in consequence, the normal arrangement of the buildings was in a great measure reversed. The Parlour and the Prior's (or Abbot's, as the case might be) lodgings were there on the east instead of, as more usual, on the west, so as to be easily accessible to strangers ; whilst, for the opposite reason the Dorter, Common-house, Infirmary and Treasury, usually upon the east side of the cloister, were there on the west. At Westminster the more usual plan was followed.

With this preface I go on to describe the buildings separately, in doing which I pass over purely architectural points, and for the most part also questions of date, because these have already been fully discussed by Sir Gilbert Scott and others in the *Gleanings*.

The Cloisters.

East Walk.—Entering the cloister from the church by the east cloister door we find on our left hand a very broad bench against the wall, extending as far as the entrance to the Chapter House. In the most northern bay[2] (1) the wall arcade, instead of being brought down by shafts as in the others, is stopped off at the springing by original brackets, as if to allow of some large piece of furniture being placed against the wall. Here, I believe, stood in the thirteenth century the *armarium commune*, or common book-case. At

[2] The figures in brackets correspond with those on the plan Fig. 1.

Durham there is a Norman arched recess in the same place, not mentioned by the writer of the "Rites," because before his time its use had ceased, books having become more numerous, and being provided for elsewhere. Recesses thus placed occur in the twelfth century Cistercian cloisters at Rievaulx and Kirkstall. The remainder of this broad bench probably served for the Abbot's maundy as at Durham, where a wooden form was placed on the stone bench, "betwixt the parlor dour and the church dour."[3] On the opposite or garth side of the walk, the bench in two bays is also very broad, and seems to be arranged for a similar purpose, but this would give more accommodation than would be wanted for the Abbot's maundy. Perhaps the monks also kept their maundy here, although, as we shall see, there is a bench for it in the south walk as at Durham ; or perhaps other officers here besides the abbot had their special maundys. The *Custumal* would probably decide the question. On the riser of the bench in the first bay on the garth side is a line of small iron staples, as if to hook up a carpet, or something of the sort, for kneeling upon. There is no bench on the east side south of the Chapter House door.

The first three bays are inside the church, taking the place of the west transept aisle, and they seem to be vaulted in rubble plastered, instead of in regular courses of chalk and Reigate stone like the rest. Under the transept wall is an arch across the cloister, and just north of it, over the point marked + on the plan, is what appears to be a wooden block in the vaulting, pierced with a hole as if for the passage of a cord or chain. The bay next south has only a plain arcade against the wall without cusps or tracery above like the others of the same date. Dart's plan shows a small building in the cloister garth against the bay in which is the stair turret. There is no trace of it now, and I can learn nothing about it. It was probably recent, but may have been old, so I have indicated its position by dotted lines in the plan.

In the central boss of the vaulting opposite the Chapter House entrance (2) is a small iron pulley as for a lamp, and in the jambs of the same entrance are remains of sundry iron hooks and the like, some of which would serve to fix

[3] "Rites," p. 66. The parlour at Durham corresponded in situation to the Revestry at Westminster.

the cord or chain of the lamp, but there are more than can be so accounted for. In the "Gleanings,"[4] the pulley is mentioned as formerly existing, but it is there yet, though it requires a favourable light to see it. It is mentioned by the writer of the letterpress to "Ackerman's Westminster Abbey,"[5] whose description of the cloister is the best old one I have seen.

At (3) on the plan is the thirteenth century entrance to the Dorter, which, from the manner in which the early vaulting is broken through, does not appear to occupy the position of the original entrance of 1065.

At (4) is the thirteenth century entrance to the old Treasury, generally called the Chapel of the Pyx, being two bays of the substructure of the Dormitory. I take this apartment to have been the monastic treasury before it became the royal treasury, and possibly afterwards also.

South Walk.—At (5) is a plain round arch, probably of the Confessor's work, forming the entrance to the dark cloister, as it is now called. This arch is much lower than the cloister from which it opens, and high up over its east jamb is a stone bracket, apparently of late fifteenth or early sixteenth century work, and a little west of the bracket is the oak frame of a blocked up window through which it could be reached. It is evidently intended for a lamp, and on the west side there is a sort of well, as if to intercept spilled oil and prevent it from running down the wall. I shall say more about it when we come to the Dorter.

From this arch (5) there is "a faire long Bench of Stone almost to the Frater-house dour," exactly as described in the same place at Durham, where, according to the "Rites,"[6] it was specially provided for use at the monks' maundy.

At (6) is a modern doorway, leading to Ashburnham House. The lintel is ancient, and has fourteenth century ornament; it appears to have been the head of a locker.

At (7) are four tall niches in the wall, united into one composition by tracery above. This is generally said to have been the Lavatory, but the niches have evidently been towel closets. They have had doors, the positions of the hinges and fastenings of which may be found, and correspond exactly with the description of the towel closets at

[4] "Rites," p. 52.

[5] Said in the "Universal Catalogue" to be William Coombe ("Dr. Syntax").

[6] P. 67.

Durham given by the author of the "Rites,"[7] except that there they appear to have been entirely of wood.

At (8) is the door of the Frater-house.

West Walk.—At (9) is the door to the Parlour, and above it, on the wall, just below the vault, are a few mouldering remnants of a picture. All that can now be made out is part of a ribbon, with an inscription in letters of about 1500, which Mr. J. T. Fowler has read with some hesitation "*in f'cla f'clorū. Amen.*" This interesting bit was pointed out to me by Mr. Wright,[8] and is, I believe, all that remains of the pictures which probably once covered the greater part of the walls of the south and west walks. Keepe, whose book was published in 1682, seems to imply that in his time there were more considerable remains of pictures. And he mentions[9] frames of wood for the glazing of the cloisters as remaining then, though glass was gone from them.

Coombe mentions a pulley in the central bay opposite the parlour door; it is now gone, but there are marks in the boss where it was fixed.

In the next bay northwards (10) is a blocked arch, with some ornament above and about it. Inside is seen a narrow chamber containing a cistern, which supplies the Dean's house. But from the vaulting-springers remaining in the two eastern corners, it appears that the chamber was originally wider, and almost square, as is shewn on the plan. It was no doubt the Lavatory, and probably had a round or octagonal laver of stone or marble in the middle. At Durham the Lavatory stood in the middle of the cloister garth, and its marble laver still remains.

We learn from the "Rites,"[1] that at Durham the north part of the west walk was assigned to the novices, whose school was held there. And we have a curious proof that at Westminster this corner was similarly appropriated. In the two bays (11 and 12) of the west walk, and in the bay and a

[7] P. 67. "At the end of the said Bench, betwixt it and the Frater-House dour, there was a faire Almerie joyned in the wall . . . . . and all the fore part of the said Almeries was thorough carved worke and iij dors in the forepart of either Almerie, and a locke on every doure, and every Monncke had a key for the said Almeries wherein did hinge in every Almerie cleane towels for the Monnckes to drie there hands on when they washed and went to dynner."

[8] It is mentioned by Coombe and by Brayley. Coombe describes a great deal of colouring, which has now perished (pp. 261-267). In his time (1812) the colouring of Henry the Third's part of the cloister seems to have been singularly perfect, and he has left us a very fair account of it.

[9] P. 177.

[1] P. 71.

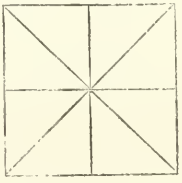
half next east of the west cloister door in the north walk, are sundry sets of nine holes each, arranged thus,—

. . .

. . .

. . .

sometimes with a line joining the central hole with the middle one of one side. These are cut in the stone bench against the wall, and are of various sizes. I have found over thirty similar sets of holes in the south walk at Canterbury, and I have no doubt that they are the work of novices in their idle moods, and were intended to play some game upon. That they are not the work of more recent school boys is shewn at Westminster by their suddenly ceasing just where, as we shall shortly see, the book-cases stood in front of the bench. There is a game still extant amongst street urchins which could be played on these "boards," but now a figure like this,



chalked on the pavement, is used. It is played by two children, each with three pebbles, and bears some resemblance to the *tic-tac-to* of our infancy. Two east-end choir-boys, who showed me how to play it, gave it the name of "*knockings in and out*," and said it was a "girl's game."

At Durham, as described in the "Rites," the novices used the bench on the garth side, and their master that against the wall, and they had wooden seats. At Canterbury, also, there is evidence of a wood casingg havin existed at some time to the same bench on which these holes are found, and it is possible that there was one here in the sixteenth century, which would date the holes back some time before the suppression.[2]

[2] We learn, from Professor Willis's account of the Monastic buildings at Canterbury (p. 45) that Prior Selling (1472—94) fitted up the south alley of the cloisters, which there is against the church, with desks and *carrells ad usum*

The sets of holes are probably not so numerous at Westminster as they once were, for part of the bench where they are found has been cut away to make way for a monument, and some stones have been renewed. The garth side has been entirely restored, so that any which may have existed there are gone.

At the north end of the west wall of the cloister (13) is a small door of uncertain date, leading into a small garden belonging to the Deanery, and probably dating back to the days of the Abbots. The east side of this garden is the back of the west walk of the cloister. It has been restored, and has buttresses, which probably represent old ones, but they do not correspond with the divisions of the cloister.

The North Walk.—At (14) is the west door from the church to the cloister.

In the two places (15, 15), the bench has originally projected to receive the bases of the vaulting shafts, but it has been cut back flush with the general face of the nosing of the bench. Between these bases are several sets of holes.

The nosing of the wall bench for six feet of the third bay from the west, and in the whole of the fourth and fifth bays, and nearly all the sixth, has been cut away flush with the riser, as if some large pieces of furniture had been placed there (16, 16, 16, 16). These were evidently book-cases, for compare the description of the north walk at Durham in the "Rites"[3]:—"In the north syde of the cloister, from the corner over against the church dour to the corner over againste the Dorter dour, was all fynely glased from the height to the sole,[4] within a litle of the grownd into the cloister garth. And in every wyndowe iij PEWES or CARRELLS, where every one of the old Monks had his carrell severall by himselfe, that when they had dyned, they dyd resorte to that place of the cloister, and there studyed upon there books, every one in his carrell, all the afternoune unto evensong tyme. This was there exercise every daie. All these pewes or carrells was all fynely wainscotted and verie close, all but the forepart, which had carved wourke

studiosorum confratrum. The lining of the inner wall was probably done at the same time; and as the cloister itself was built about 1400, we have the date of the nine holes approximately fixed. Unless the arrangement of the cloister was altered when it was furnished, they were in the monks' portion of it.

[3] P. 70. The meaning is quite clear, though the words are very confused. This confusion is characteristic of the book, and is probably not so much due to the author as to his translators or transcribers.

[4] *i.e.*: *cill*, still in common use in this sense in Yorkshire.

that gave light in at their carrell doures of wainscott. And in every carrell was a deske to lye there bookes on. And the carrells was no greater than from one Stanchell[5] of the windowe to another. And over against the carrells against the church wall did stande sertaine great almeries of waynscott all full of *Bookes*, wherein dyd lye as well the old anncyent written Doctors of the Church, as other prophane Authors, with dyverse other holie men's wourks, so that every one dyd studye what Doctor pleased them best, havinge the librarie at all tymes to goe studie in besydes there carrells."

At Durham, where the buildings have been wretchedly Wyattised, there remains not a vestige of these arrangements, but at Westminster we have such certain evidence of the existence of the *almeries*, that we may safely infer that of the *carrells*, although the restoration of that side of the cloister walk has taken away those slight evidences which would have proved it. Similarly, the restoration of the outer side of the cloisters all round, desirable as it was architecturally, prevents us from determining with certainty how the openings were glazed. I have, however, no doubt myself, that whatever may have been the case in the thirteenth century, in the fifteenth the weather was entirely excluded.

The bases of the vaulting shafts next east of the book-cases (17, 17) are cut in a way which seems to show that there was a double screen here, or perhaps there were book-cases arranged so as to form a screen, which is, I think, very likely. Beyond this screen to the right (18), are appearances in the wall which seem to indicate a blocked-up locker, but they are rather doubtful. And on the left (19) is a large double locker blocked, and the blocking appears to be ancient. This locker is of the date of the wall (Edw. I.), and may have been an additional book-closet provided, because that on the other side of the church-door (1) had become too small, and blocked up when the larger book-cases were made opposite the carrells. At Ely is a 14th century recess in this position, and it seems to replace a Norman one.

On the responds of the arch, between the north and east walks of the cloister (20, 20,) are marks as of a broad screen or wall, and just west of the arch there has been a low wooden

[5] Mullion.

barrier, with an opening at the north and closed by a falling bar. It is most likely that these two partitions are of different dates, but which is the earlier I cannot say.

Apartments under the Dorter.

Returning to the East Walk of the Cloister, we find on our left a range of bulidings of two stories in a line with the transept of the church, and running southwards for more than a hundred and seventy feet. The upper floor was the Dorter, being one great room, the lower is divided into many separate apartments and passages. Beginning at the north end, the first is the vestibule to the Chapter House, which is the only part of the lower story which has been entirely rebuilt since the Confessor's time. The west part (up to 23 on plan) is under the Dorter, and is very low, and vaulted in two spans. The eastern part is more lofty, and vaulted in one span. On the north of the first half (21), is a door into the Revestry. And on the south (22), is a door leading to the space under the Dorter stairs. It was on this door that the human skin was found, as described in the "Gleanings," p. 50, and, I think, referred to by Mr. Way, although the door is not mentioned, in the tenth volume of the "Archaeological Journal," p. 167. In the second part of the vestibule there are windows on the north opening into the Revestry (24), and on the south into the open air (25, 25,). I need not describe the Chapter House.

Next to the vestibule of the Chapter House southwards is an imperfect bay of the eleventh century work, in which was inserted a stair to the Dorter in the thirteenth century. The stair is built up independently of the earlier work, the groining of which is broken through. Under and at the side of this stair is the chamber entered from the vestibule (22), in which Sir Gilbert Scott found the store of documents as described in the "Gleanings," p. 51. The private nature of the documents found is quite consistent with the place being part of the monastic treasury, for of the Durham treasury we are told that "many gentlemen sent their evidence to be kept there for safety."[6] But, it appears from Mr. Burtt's account of the robbery of the royal treasury in 1303,[7] that at that time it was in the custody of the royal officers. The

[6] "Rites," p. 71.

[7] "Gleanings," pp. 283-290.

strip under the stairs is supposed to have been walled off from the rest after the robbery. But the account quoted by Mr. Burtt makes the treasury "below the Chapter House at Westminster," which may indeed be understood of the "Chapel of the Pyx," and the chamber we are now considering, but we should remember that there is a vault literally *under* the Chapter House, which has every appearance of having been intended for a treasury. Both the vault under the Chapter House and the treasury in the cloister appear to have been accessible to the monks in the thirteenth century, for both had altars, the lavatories for which are of that date, and they must have been intended for, at least, occasional use. If the monastic treasury was afterwards moved elsewhere, we do not know where it was. The chapel of the Pyx consists of two complete bays of the Confessor's vault, which, as Sir Gilbert Scott has pointed out,[8] have at one time had a partition wall between them. At the east end of the northern bay is the altar (26) just mentioned, with its thirteenth century lavatory. The date of the altar cannot easily be determined without minute examination, but it has in its slab a sinking for a *sigillum*, which is *circular*, a form, I believe, not found elsewhere, the nearest parallel I know to it being a round super-altar, formerly preserved at St. Alban's, and said to have belonged to St. Augustine of Canterbury. We are scarcely justified in giving a Saxon date to the altar on this account alone. Outside the building immediately behind the altar (27) are the remains of a doorway, probably of the Confessor's time. And at the east end of each bay is a strongly grated window.

The next two bays formed the Common House,[9] which occupies a very usual position. At present it is rather a gloomy apartment, but whilst its old use remained it was fairly well lighted. At the east end of the northern bay (28) are the jambs of a wide 15th cent. window, and the southern bay would receive light from the chapel east of it, which had an end window (30) now blocked, and probably also side windows, although the walls have been so altered that it is impossible to speak with certainty about them. The chapel is of the fifteenth century ; the arch opening into

[8] "Gleanings," p. 9.

[9] Mr. Sharpe always calls the Common House the Fratry. The old writers used words so loosely that, possibly, this may have good authority, but I do not remember to have seen the word used in any other sense than that of the "Rites," viz. : *Refectory*, or *Dining Hall*.

it at the west is of the eleventh, and the colouring about it now restored appears to belong to the twelfth. This arch seems to show that an earlier chapel existed. The present chapel has a good wood ceiling, and a lavatory, and the remains of a niche south of the altar (31). The Benedictine Common House as a rule appears to have been a smaller room than the Cistercian, which generally occupies fully half the basement of the Dorter, and was possibly used as a work-room, whilst the Benedictine Common House was only used as described in the "Rites"[1] for warming, and occasional recreation. The Common House at Durham occupied three bays of the vault. The partitions have been destroyed by way of "restoration," but they are shown in Carter's plan. There is a chapel opening eastwards from the end of the Common House at Jervaulx, a Cistercian house.

The three next bays of the basement have probably always been store places as they are now. At Bury St. Edmund's the *lardearium* was in this position in the twelfth century, *indecenter*, as Joceline says, and therefore, it was moved, and the place given over to the chamberlain.[2] These five bays have each a doorway opening from the continuation southward of the east walk of the cloister. The northern door into the Common House (35) is a square headed opening, with nothing visible through the whitewash to enable us to date it. It may be modern. The next (36) is pointed, and may be thirteenth century or later. The next two (38, 38) appear to be modern, but may represent old ones. The last (39) is a flatly elliptical-headed opening with a small oblong light over, and seems to belong to the sixteenth century.

For the length of the Common House (from 5 to 37 on the plan) the passage or dark cloister is vaulted with a plain barrel vault of the earliest date, with a chamber over, opening from the Dorter. The rest of the passage eastwards has a wood and plaster ceiling, and is partly built over with modern buildings. Whether it was originally covered or not is rather doubtful. The wall on the west side appears to be partly old, and that on the east, forming the west side of the Dorter, has been a good deal cut about on the surface, but appears to have had broad flat buttresses, as

[1] Pp. 75 and 84. Camd. Soc., p. 71.
[2] "Chronicon Iocelini de Brakelonda."

is usual in Norman work. To the right (40) is a doorway, which is probably old, but is covered with plaster and paint. It would open into a yard or a building between the Frater and the Misericorde. Into the same yard or building was a fourteenth century door from the Frater (70). At the south end of the Dark Cloister is a round arch (41) ranging with the south end of the Dorter, and the south side of the Misericorde, and resembling in form and proportion the eleventh century arches, but with its edges chamfered instead of left square as they are, and having a sort of projecting check as high as the springing, as if for a gate. A few feet southwards is another arch (42), very light and evidently of the sixteenth century, which carries the house above, and like the other has had a gate. It appears from an extract from the chapter books given by Mr. Mackenzie Walcott, in a note to his "Westminster Inventories,"[3] that about 1550, considerable alterations were made at this place: "a new waye . . . made owte of the darke entry into the Courte, and the pece of the Pryvey Dorter . . . pullyd downe so moche as . . . necessary for y^{t} purpose." A house "callyd Patches House," was also pulled down for the same purpose. It is evident from what remains that the Privey Dorter has been shortened here at its south end, but whether it extended far enough entirely to cut off access to the Dark Cloister from the *Court* (*i.e.* Little Dean's Yard), is not quite certain. If it did, either part of the passage must have been more open above or at the west side than it is now, or the epithet *Dark* must have been very inconveniently appropriate. Patche's House possibly stood south of the Privey Dorter, and at right angles with it in a direct line with the dark cloister. The branch of the old drain seems to indicate the former existence of some domestic building there.

Returning to the basement of the Dorter we find the fourth bay south from the Common House to be different from the rest, and forming a passage from east to west with an arch which appears to be original at each end (50, 50). The roof is barrel-vaulted, and there is a large oblong opening in it (49), which has evidently been made or left for some purpose, which may be recent, but it is possible that this is the site of the eleventh century stairs to the Dorter.

[3] Printed in the "Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society," Vol. IV.

The stair would be carried on two walls, and pass up a "well-hole" in the Dorter floor, just as the thirteenth century stair does. If the original stair was not here, it is not clear where it was. For the cutting about of the vault for the thirteenth century stair shows it to occupy a new site. The change would be made in order to provide a more convenient approach to the Infirmary erected in the twelfth century.

On the south side is a pointed doorway (48), probably thirteenth century, which leads to the next compartment. This also has a barrel-vault, and has been lighted at the east end by a round-headed window (46) of eleventh or early twelfth century date. This window has been built against in later times, but its outside may be seen in the lower story of what is called Litlington's Tower. To the south of this apartment is an eleventh century doorway,[4] opening into a small closet directly over the northern pit of the Privey Dorter. It was probably always a garderobe, as it is now,[5] but may possibly have given access to the very dismal apartment between the two pits; in which case there must have been a second arch in the south wall of the pit; and I have not found evidence of any such on either side of the wall.

We have now reached the end of the basement of the Dorter proper, but there remains for consideration that of the Privey Dorter just referred to. This is a plain Norman barrel-vault, shortened at the south end and divided into two unequal parts by an earlier wall, in which remains part of an eleventh century window (44), described and figured by Mr. Parker in the "Gleanings."[6] The southern division may have received light from its destroyed south end, but the northern can only have had a borrowed light through the little loop just mentioned, and, in fact, would be almost totally dark. I am not sure whether there was any communication between the two divisions, as part of the wall has been built against, but I think there was not. The eastern part is now entered at the north-east corner, and possibly was always so. There is enough resemblance between this chamber and the *Lyingehouse* at Durham, as described in the "Rites"[7] to suggest that it may have been used as the

[4] Figured in the "Gleanings," p. 7.

[5] The flue remains below, but seems not earlier than the twelfth century.

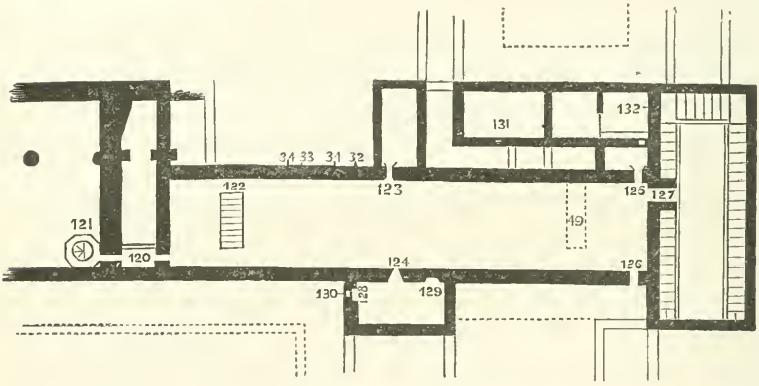
[6] P. 12.

[7] P. 75. The place still exists as a cellar under one of the canons' houses, and is almost exactly the same size as this at Westminster.

monastic prison. At Durham the prison was under the Infirmarer's house, and the prisoner in the custody of the Infirmarer. Here, though not actually under his house, it was conveniently placed for his supervision.

The outside of the south wall of the Privey Dorter basement is now entirely concealed by recent buildings; but a few months ago, in making some alterations at the porch of the School-room,[8] part of it was exposed, and in it was found a round-headed opening (43) two feet high, and the same broad, and something over two feet above the level of Little Dean's Yard. It was rebated for a flap outside, and had marks of the fastening above and below. I did not see it, but from what I can learn, it appears to have been of early date. Its use must have been that of an ash-place or dust-hole for throwing refuse into the pit into which it opens.

THE DORTER AND CHAMBERS CONNECTED WITH IT.



The Dorter is now divided into the School-room and the Chapter Library, and extended in length from the Revestry to the present entrance to Little Dean's Yard from the Dark Cloister, being something over 170 feet long. It had access to the church by a stone gallery (120), still remaining across the west end of the Revestry, and a wooden winding stair (121), which formerly stood in the corner of the South Transept, and is shown in Dart's plan. The walled-up doorway to it remains behind the Argyle Monument. The

[8] The school-room is the southern part of the old Dorter and the vestibule to it crosses the site of the Privey Dorter.

thirteenth century entrance to the Dorter from the Cloister was the same as that to the present Library (122). And about the same distance from the south end as this is from the north end is the opening in the vaulting of the basement (49), which I have suggested may mark the site of the original stair. On each side, about half-way in the length of the Dorter, is a door leading to a side chamber (123, 124). And in the same walls, quite at the south end, are two doors, the eastern (125) leading to the first-floor of what is called Litlington's Tower, and the western (126), a small round-headed door, with the alternate voussoirs of chalk and tufa characteristic of the Confessor's work. The last has led into a chamber over the dark cloister, and through that possibly to other chambers at the east end of the *Misericorde*. At the south end of the Dorter must have been the door to the Privey Dorter, and it is represented by the present entrance to the School (127), which corresponds in position with the early archway below (45), and the consequent interruption of the pit. The Dorter has been patched and extensively repaired at many dates, but still has considerable remains of twelfth century work. There is nothing except the door in the corner (126) which can with certainty be pronounced earlier; but this and the basement below are enough to show that the original apartment was of the same dimensions as the later. I have not found anything that proves a separation into many compartments, as at Durham.

The door in the middle of the west side of the Dorter (124) leads to a chamber about 32 feet long by 14 feet broad, and standing over the vaulted part of the Dark Cloister. The west and south sides seem to be entirely modern, but high up, on the north side, are the remains of a tall gable window now truncated and blocked. In the same wall there is a round-headed recess, 7ft. 6in. wide and 2ft. 4in. deep (128), reaching to the floor.[9] This recess backs upon the oak-framed window visible in the cloister (130), and near the bracket, as already described, thus rendering it possible to reach the bracket from the chamber, which but for the recess would have been impossible, owing to the thickness of the wall. In the east wall of the chamber a fireplace (129)

[9] At the back of this recess, at the north-east corner, the wall bulges forward as if to suit a stair in its thickness.

has been inserted late in the fifteenth century or early in the sixteenth; and in its north splay is a small square hole, which shows the existence of a stone "oven" such as we shall shortly have to describe, though all other indications of it are hidden. This chamber evidently belonged to one of the higher officers of the monastery. We learn from the "Rites"[1] that "the Masters and Officers of the House had there severall fyres." And from the way in which this room commands both the Dorter and the cloister, we may assign it, with great probability, to the Sub-prior.[2]

The opposite door (123) in the Dorter leads to a chamber about the same size as the last, which retains a late fifteenth century oak-framed doorway, and a ceiling, but otherwise has been entirely altered, the walls lined, and new windows inserted, apparently about the beginning of the eighteenth century. It stands over the chapel, opening from the Common House, and is a remarkably pretty room.

The door in the corner (125) opens into the first-floor of the building called Litlington's Bell Tower. What the history of that name is, and on what authority the statement that it held a peal of bells early in the last century has been made, I do not know. But I cannot help thinking that some mistake has been made about it. The building is very small,[3] and is built up against on three of its four sides, one, if not two, of the abutting buildings being higher than itself, and it has no appearance of ever having been used for bells. However, whatever may have been its use, its first-floor was connected with the Dorter, and, most likely, with the chambers east of it, thus connecting those chambers also with the Dorter, although they will be more conveniently described together with the Infirmary buildings. The communication between the stories of the "tower" must always have been by wooden stairs or ladders. Its west wall is the east wall of the Dorter, and in it remains one of the twelfth century windows of the latter, and one of the early windows in the basement (46) already described. Just south of this window

[1] P. 75.

[2] Compare "Rites," p. 73. It would be the Sub-prior at Westminster as at Durham, notwithstanding that the presence of an Abbot made the Prior only second in rank. It appears from Mr. Walcott's "Inventory" that the Prior's house at Westminster was not a mere chamber or *checker*, but had Entry, Kitchen, Buttery, Hall, Parlour, Chapel, and two Chambers, besides a garden. I have been unable satisfactorily to determine its site.

[3] 17′ 6″ × 10′ inside. It is four stories high, with one in the roof.

a doorway has been broken through into the eleventh century vault, which may be mediæval, but there is nothing to prove it.

On the east side of the Dorter, outside, are marks of a good deal of alteration, the meaning of which is not very clear. There is a doorway in the corner (32), leading from the Dorter, next the chamber already described, and two small square-headed windows (34, 34), and a third window (33) which looks as if at some time it had been cut down to serve as a door. These doors imply the existence of a building, a gallery, or perhaps a stair here, of which there is nothing else to tell us. I think they are not earlier than the sixteenth century.

The Privey Dorter, at the south end of the Dorter, was a large room 20 feet wide and 70 feet or more long. It had closets opening from it along each side, and, as it appears, across the east end. I have completed it on the Dorter plan from what remains below, the only uncertain matters being the number of closets and the exact length of the destroyed part westwards. The central room was probably lighted from the west end.

The Infirmary.

Eastward of the Dorter stood the Infirmary, occupying a usual position, but differing in form from the usual monastic Infirmaries, as we know them, being a small cloister, with the Chapel on the east and ranges of buildings on the other three sides. The difference, however, is not so great as at first sight appears. For although in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries monastic infirmaries were built in the form of large halls, like the nave and aisles of a church, it will, I believe, always be found that in the fourteenth century, or later, the aisles have been cut off, and divided up into separate apartments.[4] At Canterbury and Peterborough the walls filling the arcades have been removed lately, but at Ely they remain, and are, I believe, ancient; and in the Cistercian Infirmaries at Fountains and Kirkstall,[5] although little more

[4] We find the same change to have taken place in hospitals and almshouses for lay folk, as at Chichester and elsewhere. And the later ones take the form of a court, with a number of small houses round it, such as is described above.

[5] These are generally, for want, I suppose, of a better name, called *Abbots' Halls*. But if compared with the Benedictine examples, the use of which is admitted, there can be little doubt that they are infirmaries. They stand in the

than the foundations remain, there are also the foundations of the dividing walls, in which are fireplaces and stairs. From a nave with aisles thus built up to a cloistered court with buildings round it, the step is short.

The earliest part of the Infirmary at Westminster is the chapel dedicated to St. Katherine, the west end of which forms the greatest part of the east side of the court. It is of the middle of the twelfth century, with some later insertions, and consists of a nave of five bays, with aisles and a chancel. It has been suggested that the nave may have been longer, and have been shortened when the court-yard was made, but the arcades end with responds at the west end, so that the additional length must have formed a quite separate hall, as it did at Canterbury. The south arcade has been built up, and part of this alteration is ancient.[6] Of the north arcade only the bases remain, and I have not been able to ascertain whether it had been similarly cut off. The fourteenth century windows at the west ends of the aisles towards the cloister, appear to have belonged to living-rooms rather than to the chapel. The chapel has a fine fourteenth century west door[7] (60), and there have been small side-doors (61, 61) from each of the aisles, the southern leading to the Infirmarers' Hall, and the northern apparently into a yard.

The arcade of the cloister was built about the end of the seventeenth century, but replaces an earlier one. The inner wall is of the middle of the fourteenth century, and retains many doorways of that date (57, 57) like in form and detail, but varying a good deal in level. The stripping off of recent plaster has brought to light more of these doors, and also contemporary windows (59, 59). It appears that the cloister was surrounded by a number of small separate dwelling-

same position, they are approached in the same way from the cloister, they are similar in form, except that the chapel is separate instead of being under the same roof, and they have been similarly divided in later times. Again, the Infirmary was an important department in a Cistercian as in a Benedictine house; and if this be not it, we can find no other suitable place for it, even at Fountains, where the plan remains practically perfect. Mr. Sharpe's suggestion, that the Infirmary there was one of the detached western buildings in the outer court is quite contrary to the notion of monastic planning, which is, to place the Infirmary in the most retired position, and the building indicated would be insufficient for the purpose.

[6] Mr. Walcott's Inventory mentions *Syde Chappells* in *Seynt Kateryn's Chappell in the Farmarye*, from which it appears probable that part of the aisles remained unseparated from the chapel. But these chapels may have been one on each side of the entrance to the chancel.

[7] Outside this door, on the north side, low down, is a small locker, now blocked. Perhaps it was for a lamp.

houses, each of two stories, and roofed with long roofs running parallel with the sides of the cloister, being exactly the usual arrangement of an almshouse. The drain at the back of the south range reminds us of those still existing in a similar position at St. Cross, near Winchester. These side-ranges, and especially that on the south side, have, without doubt, much old work embedded in them; but it is only visible towards the cloister. The back walls which I have shown in outline on the plan, exist, and either are, or probably represent, old ones.

The western range of buildings resembled those on the north and south, but was rather wider, and it remains, archæologically, in a very perfect condition. Below it now consists of three divisions. The middle one forms the entrance to the little cloister, and has a fourteenth century arch (52) on the west side, and a doorway (53) on the east. Above is a chamber, which retains its roof of the same date, though it has been a little altered This roof is a continuation of that on the northern division (56), and before the alterations of the south part, about the year 1500, it has evidently gone on there also. The northern division is now the Song-school, and has had its floor taken out so as to make it all one story. This change seems to have been made early in the seventeenth century, when the original windows were blocked up, and a large gable window, suitable to the altered state of the apartment, was inserted in the north end. The original roof exists above the modern ceiling, which follows its form; and, to tell of the upper floor, there remains a fireplace about the middle of the west wall. The lower story has three doors—one from the cloister (57), one northwards, at the north-east corner towards a small yard, and one westward towards a little one-storied building (51), now destroyed, but the marks of the gabled roof of which remain on the walls. These two doors are later than the other.

On the east side is a modern fireplace, which very likely takes the place of an old one. On the west side and at the north end were long windows, the splays of which remain inside, and part of the end window itself is visible outside. In the east splay of the same window is a small round-headed locker $6\frac{1}{2}$ ins. wide and about the same high, rebated for a shutter. Cut in the bottom is a conical cup 4 in. in

diameter, and the same deep, and from the top is a small flue going up diagonally towards the outside of the wall. This is evidently intended for a light, and reminds us of the "cressets wrought in stone," in the Dorter and at the choir door at Durham, which cressets it was the duty of the cook to keep properly filled with tallow.[8] With such a rough style of night-light the flue would be very desirable, but the use of the shutter is not so evident. Perhaps it was intended to exclude the external air when the light was not burning, or it may have had a glass or horn front like a lantern.

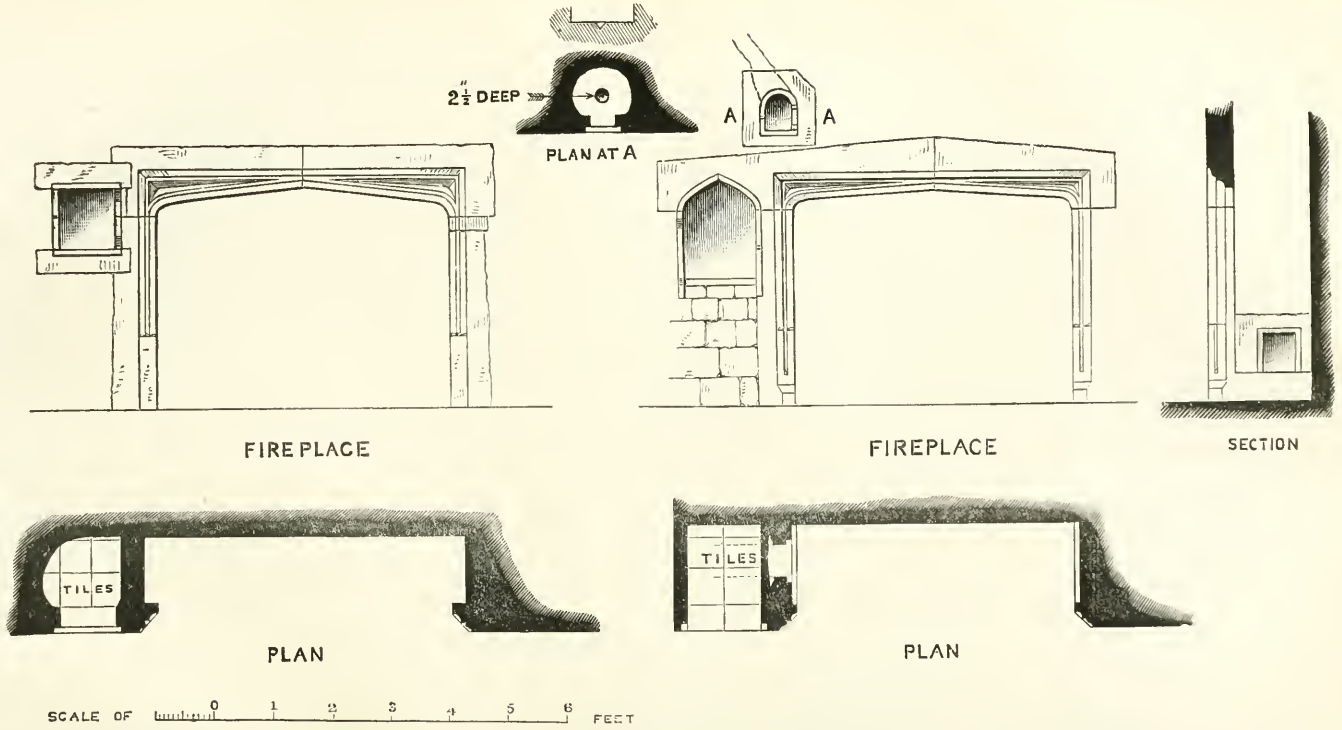
This Song-school with the added chamber behind (51) probably represents one of the largest of the houses in the Infirmary. The stairs and internal partitions were of wood, such as we find evidence of in the curious little houses of the Carthusian Monastery at Mount Grace near Northallerton.

The south end of the western side of the Infirmary cloister has been very much altered in the beginning of the sixteenth century. Originally this seems to have been the earliest part of the cloister, and there remains a small twelfth century window (67) and the rest of the wall on that side appears to be of the thirteenth century, but is covered with plaster. The Norman window lights a small garderobe taken out of the north pit of the Privey Dorter and now entered by a square headed and probably modern doorway in the south east corner of the ground floor room (54). The original entrance seems to have been a now blocked up fourteenth century doorway in the south-west corner, which would give a passage of approach to the garderobe.[9] To the same room a like doorway opens from Litlington's tower. This was probably at one time a two-story building under the same roof as the Song-school, but about 1500 the walls were raised in wood and the place made into a little house of three stories, each less than 8 ft. high, with an attic in the roof, in which state it remained till recently, the general arrangements being, as it appears, unchanged. The alterations now going on to make the place more habitable, have brought to light two fire-places, one on the first and one on the second floor (132,) which are here figured.[1]

[8] "Rites," pp. 19 and 72.

[9] The change would be made when the fireplace in the lowest story was made, and a chimney formed in the space behind. I think it is recent.

[1] From a drawing kindly lent by Sir Gilbert Scott.


2½" DEEP
PLAN AT A
A
A
FIRE PLACE
FIREPLACE
SECTION
TILES
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TILES
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0 1 2 3 4 5 6
FEET

The fire-place itself is of ordinary type, but on its left side it has the unusual addition of a sort of stone oven. In the jamb of the fire-place is a square hole leading to a cell under the floor of the oven, into which embers might be introduced, but so far as I can see, there is no flue through which a draught could be created. The floor of the oven has been laid with tiles, and both it and the stoking hole have had shutters, I suppose of iron. The tile floor of the upper oven appears to be an insertion a few inches above the original floor, which has had a round opening with a large rebate as if to receive a moveable lid of tile or iron. Above the left jamb of the fire-place is a hole with a "cresset" like that in the Song-school. The room below has a similar oven, but no light-hole,[2] and as already mentioned, the fire-place in what I have called the Sub-prior's Chamber, has the stoking hole which shows that there is an oven there also, though it is now covered up. The use of these ovens is not very clear. They can scarcely have been made hot enough for cooking, and ought rather to be called hot closets than ovens. It is doubtful whether the two chambers towards the Little Cloister, should be regarded as belonging to the Infirmary or to the Dorter, for they are now entered, and may always have been, from the first floor of Litlington's tower, which was itself entered from the Dorter. If they belonged to the Infirmary it may be that they were the sick men's chambers,[3] and that the hot closets were to keep warm drinks and the like for the use of the patients. But the rooms appear very small for this use. The only other suggestion I have to make is the rather wild one that these were *checkers*. We knew from the "Rites" the officers had fires in their checkers, and that some had their dinners served there. It is just possible that at Westminster a man whose dinner was so served had a hot closet to keep it warm till he was ready to eat it, or to keep a second course warm whilst he was disposing of the first. This would explain that in the Subprior's Chamber, but at Durham the Subprior dined at the common table.[4]

On the east side of the Little Cloister north of the chapel

[2] Perhaps there may be one, but if so, it is hidden by the timbers of the new floor, which cuts across just above the firepl ace.

[3] Which, as appears from Mr. Walcott's "Inventory," were two in number.

[4] "Rites," p. 78.

has been another house (63) like the Song-school, but rather larger. Two late fire-places remain, and on the east side the jamb of a window larger and later than those which face the cloister. A squint cut through this jamb, and commanding the door to the cloister, shows that a still later apartment has existed eastwards, which is also proved by the corbels as for a roof remaining in the precinct wall. Mr. Walcott, in a note to the "Inventories," makes this the Prior's house, which is possible, but it requires more evidence than the remains afford. That this and the Song-school were the houses of two of the obedientaries is exceedingly likely, but we cannot pretend to name them positively without documentary evidence. We may, however, with less hesitation ascribe the buildings south of the chapel to the Master of the Infirmary. The hall remains in very perfect condition (65), except that its roof has been shortened at the north end, where it extended over the aisle of the chapel as far as the arcade wall.[5] At this end was an upper room or gallery with a fire-place which remains, and the aisle below seems to have belonged to the same house. The small houses north and south of the Infirmary Cloister may have been occupied by the *sempectæ* or *seniores* of the convent.

There does not appear to have been a special Infirmary kitchen as there was at Canterbury: perhaps the great kitchen served the whole house as it did at Durham.

There is a passage (66) to the garden in continuation of the east walk of the cloister, which is ancient, and has a contemporary doorway at the south end.[6] And there may have been another from the east walk through a doorway, which appears to exist under the plaster at the south-west corner (58).

It is said that some years ago remains of baths were found east of the Infirmarer's Hall (64), and it would be interesting to know more about them, but I have not been able to obtain any definite information.

The Frater.

The plan of the Frater can be made out with certainty for the whole length of the south side of the cloister. The

[5] See description by Sir Gilbert Scott in "Gleanings," p. 15.

[6] On the east side of this passage is a late doorway towards the hall blocked up.

north wal remains entire up to the cornice,[7] with the eleventh century arcade below, and fourteenth century windows above. The width is given by part of the south wall still standing with remains of the same arcade (68). The east end is the west wall of the dark cloister and chamber over, and at this end the early arcade is replaced by one of the date of the windows. The position of the west end is not so easy to determine. There is now a wall (72) in line with the west wall of the cloister, but the wall is modern, and built up out of old fragments. It stands, however, where we should expect to find the end of the Frater, which would thus be over 130 feet long, and, it would seem, quite large enough for any possible requirement; but the remains of corbels in the north wall show that the roof went on westwards for thirty feet or more without break, and a corresponding wall on the south side (73) exists, and seems to be old. This extension westwards is now covered with buildings, and the exact position of the end wall does not appear to be certain. It looks very much as if there had been an arrangement here such as existed at Durham, where, the west end of the Frater, there was a deep gallery called the *Lofte*,[8] large enough to be the ordinary dining-place of the monks, and under the gallery was the cellar. The Lofte at Durham seems to have served the purposes of the Misericorde, and the existence of a Misericorde elsewhere at Westminster is against that of a Lofte in the Frater. Professor Willis placed the *Deportum*, which seems to have been the Canterbury name for the Misericorde, at the end of the Frater thus, but makes it a separate apartment.

The floor of the Frater was rather lower than that of the cloister, and opposite the door is the Frater Hole, a wide round fourteenth century arch, filled in later, and formed into two hatches, with shutters. At the east end of the Frater remains one jamb (70) of a fourteenth century door, which has led to a yard or building parallel to the dark cloister.

The Parlour.

The passage from Dean's Yard to the cloister is divided into two parts of about equal length. The outer belongs to

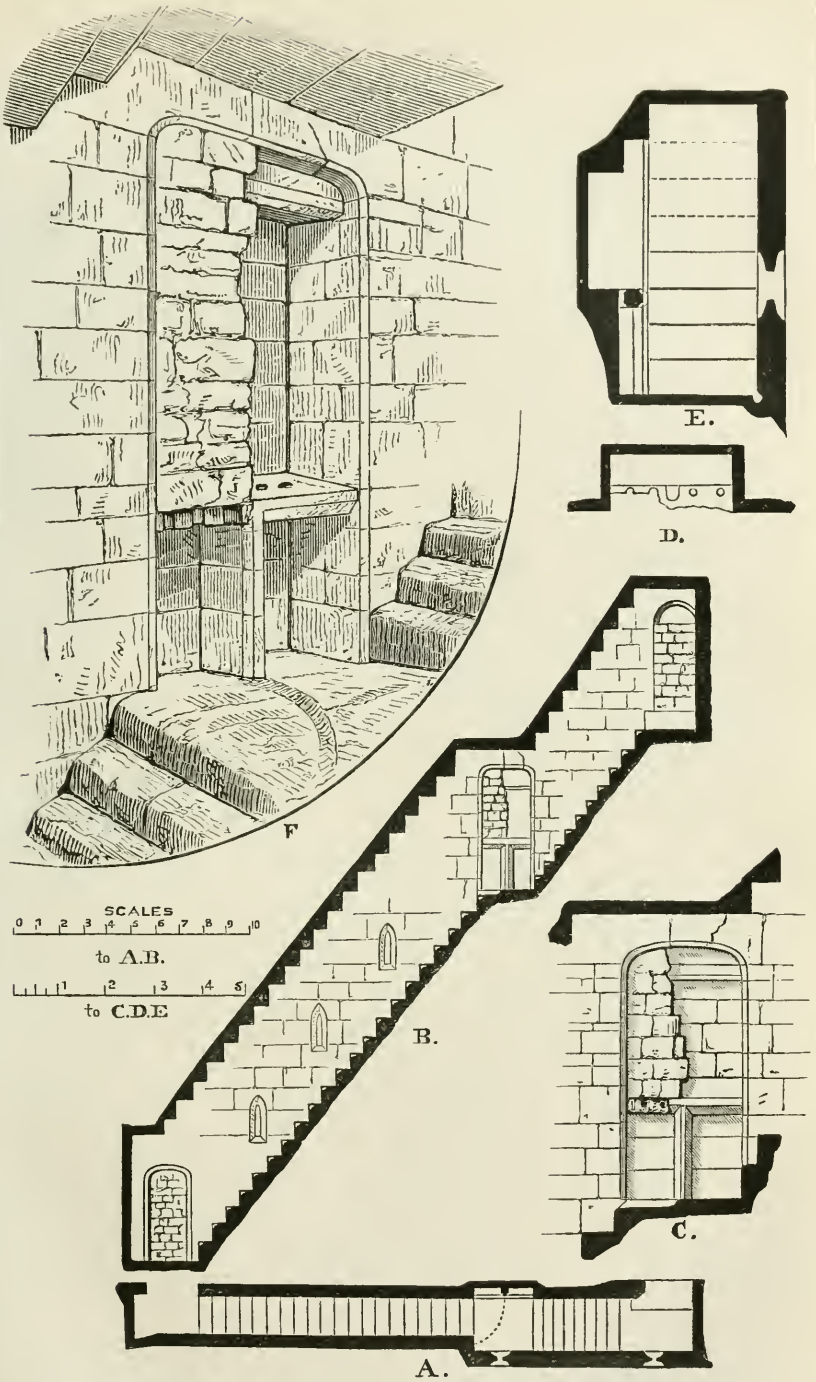
[7] "Gleanings," Plate XXX.

[8] P. 73.

the entrance tower, which is common to the Abbot's House and the cloister. The inner is evidently the *Parler* of the *Rites*, "a place for marchaunts to utter ther waires."[9] It has a door towards the cloister (9), already described, and another (84) towards the entrance. At present it receives light chiefly from the doors, but originally it had three windows, on the north a borrowed light from the Lavatory (80), and a window (81) which may have opened upon an open area in the Abbot's House, or may also have been a borrowed light; the third (82) has looked into the Frater. The last is the only one now open, and under it is a modern door, which may represent an old one, but does not appear to do so. These windows occupy three of the four side arches of the vaulting, and in the fourth is a small obtusely arched door (83), only about 3 ft. 9 in. high, blocked up flush with the face of the wall, and east of it are small loops, also blocked, rising as if to light a stair. The top of the stair is indicated by a blocked door towards the leads of the cloister over the Frater door, opposite which door there is a larger loop towards the south which is still open. Some time ago Mr. King, of Sir Gilbert Scott's office, got in at this upper loop, and gave such an account of the interior that, when preparing this paper, I was desirous, if possible, to obtain a full description of it. Unfortunately, the hole is too small for me to get in myself. But Mr. Somers Clarke volunteered to do it, and made drawings of the place, which are here reproduced.

Beginning at the bottom, there is a very steep flight of twenty-one steps, with the three loops from the Parlour on the left. Then there is a landing, above which another steep flight of nine steps leads to the upper doorway and loop. The curiosity of the place is in the middle landing, on the north of which is a recess resembling a doorway. It has a lintel cut to an elliptical form, like those of the doors, and six inches further in is a flat lintel. The lower part of this recess has a kind of stone bench all across, with an upright support in the middle underneath, and each division of the bench is pierced with two round holes $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. The upper part of the recess has been blocked, and part of the bench is broken away. Opposite is a win-

[9] "Gleanings," p. 44.



Domestic buildings, Westminster Abbey.—Staircase from Parlour.

A. B. General plan and section ; C. D. Elevation and plan of recess on landing ; E. Section through landing ; F. Sketch of recess.

dow or hatch fifteen inches wide, and very much decayed. It looks towards the Frater or its gallery, and is now blocked with brickwork. When open it would have lighted the recess with the bench. From the foot of the central support of the bench, there starts a grove or chase, which curves across the passage to the opposite side, where it is continued to the bottom, being partly in the wall and partly in the steps. The steps are in chalk, and are very much worn below the landing, but comparatively little above. All the openings, except the one loop at the top, have been blocked. At present I am quite unable to explain the use of this place. It is evident, from the condition of the steps, that something or other was done pretty frequently on the landing; and the small size of the lower door suggests that it was done by boys: the upper flight of steps was probably intended only to give access to the leads of the cloister for occasional cleaning and repairs. The four holes on the bench may have been stands for some cup-shaped or conical vessels. The chase may have contained a water-pipe. If there were a gallery at the end of the Frater, and if it could be shown to have been used like the Durham *Lofte* for dining in, I should suspect this to have something to do either with the serving there or with the removal of the alms of broken meat.[1]

The Abbot's House.

The house of the Abbots is amongst the most perfect of the monastic buildings remaining. It was a large mansion, built round its own court, and covering the whole of the west side of the cloister, over part of which it extended. Its exact limits are given in the grant of buildings from the Crown to the new Bishop of Westminster in 1541,[2] an abstract of which is given in the "Gleanings," pp. 221-225, and a long quotation in Mr. Walcott's notes to the "Inventories." The entrance tower and the room over the parlour just described belonged to the Abbot, and it is very likely, as I believe has been suggested by Mr. Walcott, that this was the Abbot's Chapel. From the entrance tower we approach the

[1] Compare the Covey at Durham, "Rites," p. 77.

[2] Many measurements are given, which agree with the existing remains, and enable us thus to identify the buildings.

court of the house by a short passage (88) vaulted in two bays, and having had doors at both ends, but no means of obtaining light except through them. On the south side of the court is an ancient wall too much altered to give any certain indication of date, but probably Islip's work. Within is a plain room (89) not vaulted, which has a door from the court, and windows, now restored or regothicised, looking south. This was possibly the buttery. In the corner is the kitchen (90), which is, no doubt, the old one, although restored about the end of the sixteenth century, to which date belong the large brick-arched fireplaces.[3] It is entered from the court by a passage (91) on its own level, on the left of which is the kitchen-door, and an Elizabethan serving hatch (92), and on the right are the stairs to the hall (93), between which and the passage is a little pantry. The walls of the hall are of Litlington's date. The wood-work, both of the roof and fittings, is a mixture of that date and later. I imagine that the hall had been allowed to fall into decay[4] after the suppression, and was afterwards repaired and put into its present form, probably by Dean Goodman, who attempted to introduce a common table and something like collegiate discipline amongst the staff of the church.

A small door near the east end of the high table leads to a lobby (94),[5] from which open doors on the west to the well-known *Jerusalem Chamber* (96), and on the east to a room (97), on the north side of the Abbot's Courtyard, called the *Jericho Parlour*. The Jerusalem Chamber is the old *withdrawing* room, and is of the same date as the Hall, and like it has been altered, but later than the other. Just outside the door on the south is a niche in the wall, very like the lavatory of an altar, and probably intended for a lamp. It does not appear to have had a flue, but the top is scooped out inside into a sort of inverted funnel, as if to collect as much as possible of the soot from the smoke before it escaped from the niche. The Hall and Jerusalem Chamber are raised on

[3] There is a wonderful representation of this kitchen in the "Gleanings," p. 208, with massive *stone* arches, and a man in tights sitting in the corner, all complete, as the artist, no doubt, thought it ought to be. It is a pity that men who draw the illustrations to archæological works, will not always show things as they are, instead of so often looking at them through Gothic spectacles.

[4] Perhaps it may have had the lead stolen. It looks like it; and the one bishop was an adept at that kind of "reformation."

[5] Under the window of this lobby, towards the court, has been a door into the basement.

a low basement story not vaulted, and the Hall is approached from the court by a seventeenth century stair and pentice, which is shown, by the form of the window near, to be a continuation of the original arrangement. It appears from the grant to the Bishop that westwards of these buildings was the Abbot's garden, and the measurements given show it to have extended as far as the gateway to the *Elms*, a court now the northern half of Dean's Yard. There was, very likely, a door to the Abbot's garden from his Hall opposite that to the court, but I have not found it.

The north side of the Abbot's court is of Islip's time. It also has a low unvaulted basement, and there are two stories over. The Jericho Parlour has very ornate oak wall-linings of the same date, and there is a good deal of old wood-work about. East of the Jericho Parlour is another room (98), now made into an entrance lobby, and with a door from the court, which may represent an old one, but does not show it in any way. From this room there are ways to the south aisle of the church, and to the chapel under the south tower, and to a wood gallery in the south aisle. This gallery is so placed that it can scarcely have been intended for the Abbot's *closet* or private pew; and I think it may have served for the singing of the *Gloria, Laus, et Honor*, on Palm Sunday. There are windows at the east end of Islip's building in both stories towards the little garden next the cloister.

The east side of the court is so plastered outside and altered inside that nothing ancient appears. It is now the Deanery, and extends over part of the west walk of the cloister, as it did in the days of the Abbots.[6] This part is, I believe, of the time of Henry VIII., and it is probable that a good deal more old work, especially wood construction, remains concealed from view.

Buildings towards Dean's Yard.

All along the side of Dean's Yard, are remains of fourteenth century buildings, more or less complete. They are now houses, and have necessarily been and continue to be from time to time very much altered. This is perfectly legitimate, for so long as a building continues in use it must be

[6] The grant to the Bishop includes the fourth part of the great cloister, and the buildings situate, and being above the same.—"Gleanings," p. 223.

made to suit the wants of its users, and if no wanton destruction of old work takes place, the antiquary has no right to complain, and here, of late years at least, the ancient remains have been reverently cared for. But, although I believe the general opinion is against me, I cannot help thinking that it is wrong in treating works of this sort to imitate in modern alterations and additions, the style and architectural treatment of the old. The result of this system is that the antiquary is often puzzled to know whether he is looking at a restoration of an ancient feature, or upon an entirely modern one, to which a mistaken reverence for antiquity has given the form of a sham antique. And, of course, the more accomplished is the architect the more complete is the deception.

The uses of this range of buildings is not now known, though no doubt it will be cleared up some day. I suppose the northern part, if not the whole, to have been the Cellarer's offices and his *hospicium*, as at Canterbury,[7] in a somewhat similar position with respect to the cloister and the kitchen. But as nearly every monastic outbuilding, from a granary to a Guest-house, took the form of a vaulted cellar below and a long chamber above, it is very unsafe to guess at uses without the guidance of documents. The grant to the Bishop gives us two names which we can fix with certainty, but unfortunately they are of the fantastical sort, which gives no clue to the uses of the buildings.

On the upper story of the gate-house over the entrance (87), is a large pointed window, flanked by niches, which is a restoration of the old. Inside the entry are two modern doors to the south (85, 85), which most likely represent old ones. One leads to a slype or passage (100), into the kitchen-yard between the end of the Frater and the *Calberge;* and the other, to a narrow space (86), between the wall of the entry and the outer wall of the tower. Here was, no doubt, a stair; but whether it led to the upper room of the tower or to that of the *Calberge*, or to both, is not clear.

[7] Besides his many and various store-rooms, the cellarer provided living and sleeping accommodation for the guests, and also for nearly all the servants of the Abbey. These required very extensive buildings, and it may well be that the whole east side of Dean's-yard was taken up by them. Allowing for the different *status* of the Cistercian *Conversi* from the servants of a Benedictine house, Mr. Sharpe's *Domus Conversorum* is the same building, and, unless I mistake, the end of it away from the church was the guest-house.

The grant to the Bishop calls the building south of the entrance tower (99) the *Calberge*, a word which I have not found satisfactorily explained. I have heard the place called "The Chequers," but whether the name is traditional or supplied by some recent antiquary I cannot learn. It is, however, very likely that the Cellarer's checker and perhaps some others were here. The building has a vaulted basement, the floor of which is somewhat below the ground level. The vaulting is plain, but has good carved bosses. It is in five bays, now divided into many rooms, and each bay appears to have been lighted on the west side by two small strongly-barred windows, a few of which remain outside, and several more of the inner arches inside. A door remains on the east side (100). And at the south end are remains of a door (103), and a window (101), the former opening into the tower (102). This tower is called the *Black Stole Tower*[8] in the Bishop's grant, and formed the entrance into the kitchen yard. It is three stories high, and the most perfect of the buildings in this range. Part of the roof of the upper story of the *Calberge* remains. It is low-pitched, and quite plain.

The next building (104), has been of two stories, somewhat taller than the *Calberge*. The front is old, but with modern windows and doors inserted. I do not know of anything old inside. This may have been the Cellarer's hall. South of it is a large entrance-tower three stories high (105), restored, except in the lower story, which is vaulted in two bays, and in the western bay is a blocked doorway towards the south (106), which would have led to the building (107). This has a modernised front in which no old is visible, but the substance of the wall is old. The back (108) and end (109) walls appear to remain, although they are now made internal, and of course plastered. In the back is an old doorway (109), now made into a cupboard. According to the analogy of Canterbury this building would be the Guest House. The next (110) is rather set back from the line of the others, and appears entirely modern, except that there is a large mass inside, which suggests an old

[8] There has been some confusion about the use of this name, which is sometimes given to the larger tower at the entrance to Little Dean's Yard. But the grant gives the distance from the entrance tower to the Black Stole Tower as 88 feet, which conclusively proves it to have been the more northern of the two.

chimney. Beyond this and coming forward to the former line, is an old wall (111), in which are two blocked-up two-light fourteenth century windows. This wall runs on to the corner through the modern gate into Dean's Yard, where it joins the precinct wall.

The Kitchen.

The exact site of the kitchen and its dependent offices, is not yet ascertained. They must have been in the space (74) east of the Cellarer's buildings, south of the Frater, and west of the end of the Misericorde (76). This space is now thickly covered with buildings, in which no doubt there is old work remaining to be discovered. The kitchen has not opened directly into the Frater, for on the outside of the wall of the latter near the Frater-hole, are two attached pillars remaining, showing that there has been a vaulted passage between them, which is indeed what we should expect. There is a Norman wall (75) running from the south side of the Frater to the corner of the Misericorde, in which wall are two round-headed windows, high up, which show it to have been the east side of a building, but I think not of the kitchen. It may have been the larder. The kitchen was very likely a massive stone structure, like those which remain complete at Durham and Glastonbury, and in part at Canterbury and Ely ; and was pulled down at the suppression, because it could not easily be adapted to the purposes of a dwelling-house. The wall towards Little Dean's Yard (79) is of the last century, but doubtful indications of old work appear in places, and from them and the way in which it follows the line of the old sewer, I think that the western part at least is on old foundations, and was the wall of the kitchen-yard.

The Misericorde.

The grant to the Bishop enables us to identify the range of buildings south of and parallel with the Frater, as the Misericorde. Its west gable towards the kitchen-yard remains, forming part of the end of Ashburnham House, and the side walls may be traced through the house as far as the Dark Cloister. In the gable wall are the remains of two square-headed windows high up, which look like insertions.

In the north wall towards the west end (77) are a doorway and a small window which may be of the thirteenth century. The Misericorde seems to have been the western part of the range, and was probably a long hall without any chamber over. The eastern part against and partly over the Dark Cloister, contains work of many dates, and has evidently been often altered. I have not been able to make out the original form or intention of the buildings, but I have put down on the plan such old work as I have been able to get at, for the knowledge of most of which I am indebted to Mr. H. F. Turle. There are other walls which may be old, and their exposure would probably explain what is now a puzzle. At (76) is a pointed doorway blocked, which, so far as one can judge from the small portion visible, may be as early as Litlington's time. This doorway fronts westward, and leads to a small apartment, the east, south, and west sides of which seem to be ancient. On the outside of its south wall is the base of a buttress, which appears to have been external at one time. At (78, 78) are two doorways facing outwards in each case. That to the south appears to be of the fourteenth century, and the other of the sixteenth. Both retain sixteenth century doors. This part of the building seems to have been of two, if not of three stories. There is now a 16th century fireplace in a room on the second floor, but I think it is later than the suppression. The first floor extends over the Dark Cloister, and formerly communicated with the Dorter by the early doorway in the south-west corner.

It is said to be the intention of the School authorities to pull down Ashburnham House, and build a chapel in its place. This would be a very great loss; for, besides the monastic remains imbedded in it, Ashburnham House is itself an exceedingly good example of old English domestic architecture. If a chapel be really wanted, would it not be possible to rebuild St. Katherine's, the mouldering ruins of which must soon perish entirely unless in some way they are protected from the weather?

The Garden-Wall, etc.

The garden-wall built by Abbot Litlington (112, 112) remains, with only one break, from its commencement at the

south-east corner of Dean's Yard all the way to the east side of the Chapter House, where it stops suddenly, having possibly been broken into when the Lady Chapel was rebuilt and enlarged by Henry VII. The wall has been heightened, and is perfectly plain. There is a walled-up postern doorway on the east side (113), near the Infirmary. The rest of the precinct boundary, with all the buildings of the outer court, have gone, and it is not within the task I have set myself, to describe them ; but in the plan, I have set down in outline the position of the gate-house,[9] from Sandford's plan, and I have dotted in, conjecturally, the sites of the buildings south of the *Elms*, from the description given of them in the grant to the Bishop, aided by the woodcut of Mr. Walcott's old map given in the "Gleanings," p. 224. They were a barn, farm-buildings, and the like ; but our information does not enable us to distinguish them.

The Ancient Drainage.

I am fortunately able to lay down on my plan a considerable part of the ancient drainage system of the Abbey. A very small portion of this is now accessible ;[1] but in 1849 a survey of the drains was made, which was very complete so far as it went, and a plan was drawn, for the use of a copy of which I have to thank Mr. Wright. That this survey did not include all the ancient drains, is shown by some part of that which is now accessible being omitted, and I have therefore ventured in one case to show, by a dotted line, a drain for the existence of which I have no authority but its probability.

The sewer, as examined, began just outside the entrance to Little Dean's Yard, and passed out of the precinct, under the garden-wall, at a point in a line with the south side of the Jewel Tower, which was probably served by the continuation of it. Between these points there are many ramifications.

[9] Just inside the great gate was, on the south, the gate of the *Elms*, which was a little north of the present gate into Dean's Yard, where the Crimean monument now stands. Inside were the Almonries and Alms-houses, as seems to have been usual in great abbeys. From what is said in the "Rites" about the *children of the Almery* and *Farmery for four old women* (pp. 77, 78), it appears that these parasitic foundations were a sort of consequence and regulation of the monastic dole.

[1] From 67 to about 78 on the plan ; on which the drain is shown by a thin blue line.

At the time of the survey there was a deep deposit throughout the length of the sewer, and the fall was from east to west, or away from the river, and the ancient bottom is three inches lower at the west end than at the east. But as between these two points there are falls both ways, alternating in a very irregular manner, and for a great part of its length the bottom is a foot lower than it is at either end, I can see no sufficient reason for doubting that the flow was intended to be in the more natural way—from west to east, towards the river. It is probable that there was here the arrangement, which the old men seem always to have preferred where they could get it, of a running stream diverted through the sewers, and so keeping them constantly flushed. Here there was the mill-stream, which ran along the southern precinct of the Abbey, a portion of which could easily have been diverted. The irregular form of the bottom would make a considerable stream necessary to keep the sewers in tolerable order, and it is not unlikely that some part of them was originally open.

The known part of the sewer begins, as I have said, at the gate of Little Dean's Yard, after passing which it skirts the wall of the old kitchen yard. It is probable that here was a short branch to serve the kitchen and its offices. Further eastward the sewer forks into two so as to pass through both sides of the Privey Dorter, just west of which is a cross drain joining the two branches, the purpose of which is not clear. The southern branch in its way through the Privey Dorter, receives a drain from the south, which I have referred to before as marking the site of a house; and at the east end of the same building is a cross drain joining the two branches, and which probably served a return row of garderobes, as shown on the upper plan. Thence the south branch passes at the back of the south buildings of the Infirmary, which may have had offices built over it as at St. Cross, and goes on in a straight line to the precinct wall, and formerly, no doubt, past the Jewel Tower into the river. The northern branch having passed the Privey Dorter, turns at right angles to the north along the west walk of the Infirmary Cloister, through the north range of buildings, and past the east end of the chapel opening from the Common House, beyond which it stops suddenly close to the Chapter House. Whether this ever went further is

perhaps doubtful, but there was very probably a branch along the north side of the Infirmary buildings, and serving them, and then either joining the southern branch or passing on directly to the river.

This system is so far complete that it serves all the offices and buildings which appear to require it.

The short and imperfect sketch which I have been able to give shows how much still remains to reward searchers amongst these buildings. Another paper has to be written applying the evidence existing in writing to the remnants of the fabric. This I hope some day to do, unless some one will be good enough to do it before me. There is indeed work for a special Society here, and I should rejoice to see a *Westminster Society* formed, with the sole object of thoroughly investigating the buildings, and printing every document concerning them.